

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Image generating method for generating a composite image from a plurality of original images, the method comprising:

determining a plurality of partial original images for inclusion in the composite image to be generated, and included in any of the plurality of original images; and

performing a predetermined process for generating the composite image on a predetermined processing area of the original image that includes the partial original image, without performing the process on portions outside the processing area, to generate the composite image based on the plurality of partial original images, the processing area being equivalent to an area of the partial original image, and the process for generating the composite image calculating pixel tone values,

wherein the generating of the composite image includes calculating a tone value of each pixel making up the composite image, based on the tone value of each pixel making up the plurality of partial original images, without calculating tone values of pixels not included in the composite image.

Claim 3 (Original): Image generating method according to Claim 2 wherein the processing area includes:

an area included within the original image and within a range of predetermined distance from the perimeter of the partial image, and

the area of the partial original image.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Image generating method according to Claim 4 2 wherein the composite image has higher density of pixels making up the image than does ~~the~~ a low-resolution image, and an area extending beyond an area of any one of the original images.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Image generating method according to Claim 4 2 wherein the plurality of original images mutually include portions recording a same given subject, and the step of determining partial original images comprises the steps of:

(a) performing resolution conversion for the plurality of original images, to generate a plurality of low-resolution images of resolution lower than the original images;

(b) based on portions in the low-resolution image recording the same given subject, determining from areas of the plurality of low-resolution images a composite area equivalent to the sum of the areas of the low-resolution images;

(c) determining within the composite area an image generation area extending beyond an area of any one of the low-resolution images; and

(d) determining, as the partial original images, portions of the original images corresponding to low-resolution partial images which are portions of the low-resolution images and included in the image generation area.

Claim 8 (Original): Image generating method according to Claim 7 wherein the partial original image, when subjected to conversion of the resolution, is to generate an image equivalent to one of the low-resolution partial images, and

the step (d) comprises the step of determining the partial original image based on relationship between the low resolution partial image and the low resolution image, on and the plurality of original images.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Image generating method according to Claim 7 wherein the low-resolution image has a pixel ~~pitch~~ density that is 30% -80% of a pixel ~~pitch~~ density of the original image.

Claim 10 (Original): Image generating method according to Claim 7 wherein the step (b) comprises the step of

(b1) based on the portions recording the same given subject, calculating relative positions of the plurality of low-resolution images,

and the step (c) comprises the steps of:

(c1) displaying as the composite area on a display unit the plurality of low-resolution images according to the relative positions thereof;

(c2) provisionally establishing the image generation area;

(c3) displaying on the display unit the provisionally established image generation area, shown superimposed on the plurality of low-resolution images;

(c4) resetting the image generation area; and

(c5) determining the reset image generation area as the image generation area.

Claim 11 (Original): Image generating method according to Claim 10 wherein the step (b1) comprises the steps of:

(b2) receiving user instruction in regard to general relative position of the plurality of low-resolution images; and

(b3) based on relative position instructed by the user, calculating relative position of the plurality of low-resolution images so that deviation among the portions thereof recording the same given subject is within a predetermined range.

Claim 12 (Original): Image generating method according to Claim 11 wherein the step (b2) comprises the step of displaying on a display unit at least two of the low-resolution images, and

the instruction regarding general relative position of the plurality of low-resolution images is accomplished at least in part by the user moving one of the two low-resolution images displayed on the display unit, onto the other low-resolution image so that they partially overlap.

Claim 13 (Original): Image generating method according to Claim 11 wherein the step (b2) comprises

the step of receiving, by way of instruction in regard to the relative position of the plurality of low-resolution images, instruction relating to sequential order of the plurality of low-resolution images in a predetermined direction, and

the step (b1) further comprises

(b4) a step of determining the relative position of the plurality of low-resolution images according to the sequential order.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): Image generating device for generating a composite image from a plurality of original images, wherein the device

determines a plurality of partial original images for inclusion in the composite image to be generated, and included in any of the plurality of original images; and

performs a predetermined process for generating the composite image on a predetermined processing area of the original image that includes the partial original image, without performing the process on portions outside the processing area, to generate the composite image based on the plurality of partial original images, the processing area being equivalent to an area of the partial original image, and the process for generating the composite image calculating pixel tone values,

wherein the generating of the composite image includes calculating a tone value of each pixel making up the composite image, based on the tone value of each pixel making up the plurality of partial original images, without calculating tone values of pixels not included in the composite image.

Claims 16-27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): Computer-readable storage medium ~~program product~~
encoded with a computer program for generating a composite image from a plurality of
original images, the computer program ~~product~~ comprising:

~~a computer readable medium; and~~

~~a computer program recorded onto the computer readable medium;~~

~~wherein the computer program comprises:~~

a first portion for ~~determining~~ causing a computer to determine a plurality of partial
original images for inclusion in the composite image to be generated, and included in any of
the plurality of original images; and

a second portion for ~~performing~~ causing a computer to perform a predetermined
process for generating the composite image on a predetermined processing area of the original
image that includes the partial original image, without performing the process on portions
outside the processing area, to generate the composite image based on the plurality of partial
original images, the processing area being equivalent to an area of the partial original image,
and the process for generating the composite image calculating pixel tone values,

wherein the generating of the composite image includes calculating a tone value of
each pixel making up the composite image, based on the tone value of each pixel making up
the plurality of partial original images, without calculating tone values of pixels not included
in the composite image.

Claims 29 and 30 (Canceled).